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Agenda item 21 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

New Zealand and Rwanda: draft resolution

International assistance to Rwanda for the reintegration of returning refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/211 of 21 December 1993, entitled "Emergency assistance for the socio-economic rehabilitation of Rwanda", and 49/23 of 2 December 1994, entitled "Emergency international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in war-stricken Rwanda", and 50/58 L of 22 December 1995, entitled "Situation in Rwanda: international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in Rwanda",

Taking into consideration the need for continued humanitarian assistance to support the ongoing process of the voluntary repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of returning refugees,

Emphasizing the need for, inter alia, an infusion of significant material and financial resources in Rwanda in order to create conditions for sustainable peace and development,

Conscious that continued technical assistance and advisory services, as well as other assistance, is required to assist the Government of Rwanda in reconstructing the social, legal and economic infrastructure of Rwanda,

Recognizing, inter alia, that the Peace Agreement between the Government of the Rwandese Republic and the Rwandese Patriotic Front, signed at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania on 4 August 1993, as well as the recently established Commission for National Reconciliation, provide an appropriate framework for national reconciliation,

Expressing its gratitude to those States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have responded positively and continue to respond positively to the humanitarian and development needs of Rwanda, and to the United Nations, which has mobilized and coordinated the distribution of humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the manner in which Rwanda has handled the massive and sudden repatriation of refugees from eastern Zaire and Burundi, and stressing the need for the Government of Rwanda to continue its efforts to support the voluntary repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of returning refugees,

1. Congratulates all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for their efforts to draw the attention of the international community to the humanitarian and development needs of Rwanda, requests them to provide all possible assistance and encourages them to coordinate with the Government of Rwanda and the coordinator of United Nations activities in Rwanda in order to address the emergency and long-term development needs of Rwanda, as presented at Geneva by the Government of Rwanda on 23 November 1996, in the programme for the resettlement and reintegration in the context of the present massive return of refugees;

2. Also welcomes the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to cooperate with and to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel, including personnel of non-governmental organizations, operating in the country;

3. Urges all States, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the multilateral financial and development institutions, to continue to assist Rwanda in the resettlement and reintegration of refugees and other vulnerable groups in the context of the national reconciliation process, and in the rehabilitation efforts in the following priority areas: education, health, justice, security and public infrastructure;

4. Calls upon the international community to continue its assistance with a view to alleviating the intolerable conditions in Rwandan prisons and to expediting the processing of cases, and encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue its efforts to improve the judicial system, including by expediting the trial process, and encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue to improve the situation in the prisons;

5. Encourages the International Tribunal for Rwanda to pursue its work speedily and calls upon all States to cooperate with the Tribunal, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 955 (1994) of 8 November 1994 and 978 (1995) of 27 February 1995, by arresting and detaining persons suspected of genocide

and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and to ensure the transfer of indicted individuals to the Tribunal;

6. Urges all States to provide funds to projects and programmes for the reintegration of refugees, as proposed in the various subprogrammes presented by the Government of Rwanda at Geneva on 23 November 1996;

7. Calls upon all States, in particular the States of the Great Lakes region, to act in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Nairobi Summit of January 1995 and the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura in February 1995, and with those contained in the Cairo Declaration on the Great Lakes Region, and to continue efforts with regard to the search for peace in the Great Lakes region, in particular the convening of a conference on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region after consulting the countries of the region;

8. Decides to consider at its fifty-second session the question of international assistance for the reintegration of returnees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in Rwanda, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.